

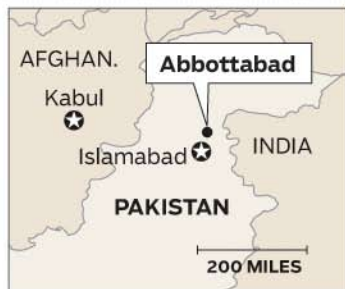
The hunt

2007: U.S. intelligence operatives determine the identity of one of Osama bin Laden's couriers.

2009: The U.S. identifies areas in Pakistan where the courier and his brother operated.

August 2010:

The courier's residence, a relatively large and guarded compound, is located in the city of Abbottabad.



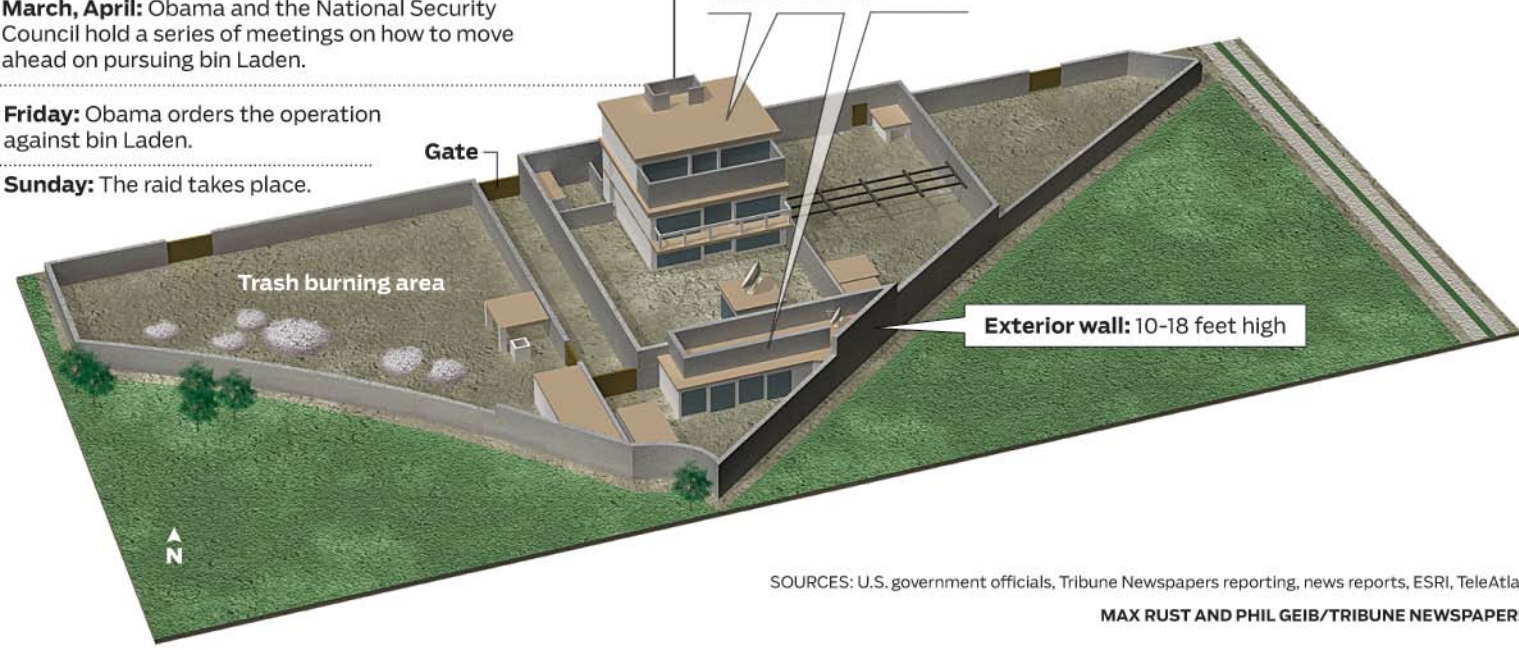
September: The CIA briefs President Barack Obama on the possibility that bin Laden lives in the compound.

February 2011: U.S. officials conclude there is a "sound intelligence basis" for pursuing bin Laden at the compound.

March, April: Obama and the National Security Council hold a series of meetings on how to move ahead on pursuing bin Laden.

Friday: Obama orders the operation against bin Laden.

Sunday: The raid takes place.



The raid

■ Two helicopters carrying Navy SEALs and other personnel arrive at the compound around 1 a.m. The plan is for the SEALs to rappel into the compound from both helicopters.

■ One of the helicopters has trouble staying aloft and lands outside the compound. SEALs aboard the grounded aircraft rush out while the others rappel into the compound.

■ The SEALs first clear a smaller building, then make their way through the first floor of the larger structure by engaging in a firefight with two men. Bin Laden and his family live on the second and third floors of the house. The SEALs clear the house.

■ The SEALs collect papers and other intelligence from the compound.

■ Before departing, the SEALs destroy the malfunctioning helicopter. A team of SEALs departs in the still-operating helicopter.

■ A third helicopter picks up the remaining SEALs.

